July 8, 1974

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Dear Ed,

Thanks for your most recent. I agree that a fair exchange of information between the critics is valuable as I have learned much from the literature on the assassination. Weisberg excepted.

I am in correspondence with perhaps half a dozen people who besides having regular type work also study the case. We exchange information and help one another as much as we can. They don't have "big critic" names and haven't published anything, but look at the case quite level headedly.

That "Frenchy" King ~~xxxxx~~ suspect photo comparison was something I came up with in one of my weak-headed moments. I regret that very much simply because it proves nothing. I was greatly surprised when William Turner printed it in Ramparts and claimed he had discovered the comparison, (I sent the photos to him), which only goes to show you that even ex-FBI men are capable of plagiarizing worthless leads and giving them currency.

Dallas police shook down those railroad cars parked back in the yards behind the TSBD and came up with 3 tramps some hours after the shooting. What would you expect them to find in a railroad yard -- stockbrokers? Is this significent? Did the tramps have anything to do with the assassination? What?

If you had to infer my opinion of Garrison, then let me be clear. I think he is a big (6'6") bag of wind who would do anything, make that anything, to build his case -- whatever it was. Here again we are talking about a lawyer and my opinion of lawyers was well stated in my last letter. Garrison was, as one critic put it, a "Warren Report critic on company time." He rode the crest of the public clammor for a new review of the Commission's findings like a carnival barker. "Step right up folks and see who really killed your president." The damage he has done to worthwhile critics of the case has been incalculable. I have a tape of Mark Lane phoning Mort Saul (on the air) from new Orleans that tells the whole story. Lane says he has just seen Garrison's "evidence" and he knows the earth will shake and the government will fall when Jim walks into that courtroom. Garrison is a much bigger con man that Bernie Cornfield, P.T. Barnum or Richard Nixon rolled into one. I love to hear him talk, but I ~~xx~~ would hate to live in New Orleans and cross him.

As for Weisberg, well, let me relate one thing. Harold addressed a letter to me on D.A. stationery asking if I would retouch a photo of Kerry Thornley too look like Oswald. (no kidding) I was impressed with Harold then and did the job -- thank god I did a sloppy job -- and sent it back to him in N.O.

Harold was, apparently, going to show the retouched photo around to get the reaction of various witnesses. Thornley got wind of this and had his attorney contact me, so I cooperated and sent him a copy of Harold's letter and the retouch, whereupon Harold ran for cover. Have you ever heard of an investigator showing a doctored photo around town to implicate a suspect? That's Happy Harold. Anything goes just so you can make a case -- blurry photo comparisons, wierd associations, forged guest books, trumped up arrest cards, phoney oodes -- all the things they accuse the CIA of doing.

I wish New Orleans would stick with Mardi Gras in the street and keep them out of the courts.

A photo of Shaw and Ferrie taken in 1947? Now all they have to do is prove that this has some connection with events in Dallas. I would suspect Garrison was just having a little fun in a photo darkroom -- a little fun that would enhance his case and ruin Clay Shaw. What does Garrison care about the rights of citizens?

That claim that J. A. Milteer was that old tramp is probably just another "slip of the Penn."

How could Ford, Warren and Belin really believe that "single bullet bullshit?" Because they are lawyers and lawyers believe some really far-out things.

What witness thought he (she) saw Brading with a rifle?

Thompson's book does now show a figure behind the fence in the Moorman photo. I can't see anything there. Marcus sees a figure (first spotted by David L. Lifton) in the west shelter of the knoll pergola and so what? What was he doing? Did anyone see him fire a gun? I have sat for hours with Ray Marcus looking at hugh blow ups of sections of poor quality photographs to no avail. Ray even goes so far in his ink blot test to disern an object (maybe a gun) in the blurry figure's hand. You can play the same game by laying on your back and picking shapes out of cloud formations - the possibilities are endless. It's insane.

The sewer theory belongs right down there with the rest of the stuff that goes down sewers. Officer Haygood was no where near the limousine during the shooting and parked his bike some 4 or 5 feet away from that sewer vent and did not get off his bike and look in that sewer, as I can follow him during this time. He did miss- park his bike and had it almost topple over in the excitment. Then he ran up to the top of the knoll probably to get a view of the Stemmons freeway to get a glimpse of the Presidential motorcade.

Why do you believe Oswald's rifle was used in the assassination? Because matching slugs were found in the limousine? Was his gun fired that day? Why no finger prints on it? Did he have time to clean the gun afterwards? How much time would ~~xxx~~ that take? Did he have time to do this and then get down to the 2nd floor? Could those slugs have been fired from "his gun" at some other time to implicate him? Was CE399 also planted? Who would have had control over the crime scene (the car, Parkland)?

Why is it that witnesses on the street in front of the TSBD do not look up at the source of the shots? Photos show them looking at the motorcade.

That chart by lawyer Copeland is a beaut. What has he been smoking? I take that back, I forgot he's and lawyer and they don't have to smoke anything to see things like this.

I see you are pressing me for evidence (fair enough) to back my allegation that Oswald was "placed" on the route. That's part of some research I am doing and when I'm ready to present it I'll send it along for your reading. What evidence do I have that LBJ maneuvered JFK to Dallas? Plenty, but I'm going to beg off sending it until I can complete the work.

I don't see LBJ and Youngblood on the floor in the Altgen's photo - I see them starting to react (duck) and I consider it quite significent.

As for the list of suspects you sent (p. 11) I don't have anything sinister here. I know of no significence in Howard's No Name Key photos.

I don't consider it important if Ruby were to wander down to Dealey Plaza after the shooting. That Willis #8 - taken much later in the day, does contain a subject that resembles Ruby. I don't think photo was cropped for a purpose. What if Ruby was there? I would expect him to be where the "action was". I tend to dismiss Victoria Adams, Hill and Wise on this point. Seth Kanter's seeing Ruby at Parkland seems pretty good, but again, so what? Was Ruby asked about Kanter in his testimony? I forget.

I have the Hughes movie which I cannot copy and distribute. 40 bucks for the DCA is a rip-off, you should pay approx. $10.00.

The other night I saw the movie The Paralax View, a movie that raises text-book paranoia to a high art. In view of the authors of this script, nothing ever happens by chance; there is no such thing as a coincidence, every thing seems to fit into a master plan, hugh conspiracies build and build until everything can be explained in terms of a shadow of evil forces that surround us everywhere. Witnesses never die a natural death and even friends of relatives of witnesses run into foul play even though they know nothing. I sometimes think the country is loosing it's collective mind -- a mind numbed trying to make sense out of the chain of murders and misfortunes that have assulted us these last ten years. It's nice to feel that all these "seemingly unrelated" events are "somehow" connected in a giant plan -- a neat scenario, that exists, if only we could make the connection. If we try hard enough and long enough we can even begin to see the sinister shape of this hugh conspiracy, because we want to see it and we let our minds fit things into classifications that make the cabal come alive. Then JFK's, Kings', RFK's, Malcolm X's, Rockwell's death make sense. Otherwise the whole thing is nutty and the mind rejects it. I do think JFK's life was taken by a small conspiracy. I do think some of the others were killed by genuine kooks who were alone. See enclosed column by Mike Royko for discussion of the insanity abroad in this land.

Peace, your friend,

Fred